

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chairman of Committee

March 27, 2017  
Date

Committee on Education.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB17-1004 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:

3           **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general  
4 assembly finds and declares that:

5           (a) Many Coloradans currently serve in the Armed Forces, and  
6 Colorado is home to more than 400,000 veterans;

7           (b) These members of our community spend significant time  
8 receiving training and education for jobs serving our country and  
9 safeguarding our freedom and liberty;

10           (c) The Armed Forces invest taxpayer dollars to provide  
11 high-quality education and training to service members;

12           (d) Upon separation from the military, former service members  
13 are offered a GI bill;

14           (e) The GI bill generally covers only thirty-six months of  
15 education, and guidance targeted to veterans is necessary to ensure the  
16 optimal use of these limited GI benefits; and

17           (f) Veterans face an increased risk of poverty and failure to  
18 complete their postsecondary education if they are placed in college  
19 courses without appropriate recognition of college-level learning acquired  
20 while in the military and targeted guidance from the institution to ensure  
21 that GI bill benefits are used effectively to complete a chosen program of  
22 study.

23           (2) Now, therefore, by requiring state institutions of higher  
24 education to adopt a policy for awarding credit for college-level learning

1 acquired in the military and provide appropriate guidance to veterans,  
2 Colorado can ensure an easier pathway to career and financial success for  
3 our veterans.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-144 as  
5 follows:

6 **23-5-144. Credit for military education and training - policy**  
7 **- repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
8 REQUIRES, "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
9 HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10); EXCEPT  
10 THAT "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
11 INCLUDES EACH LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF A LOCAL  
12 COLLEGE DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE 23  
13 AND THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

14 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, EACH GOVERNING BOARD OF  
15 A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT, MAKE PUBLIC,  
16 AND IMPLEMENT A PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT POLICY FOR AWARDING  
17 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED WHILE IN  
18 THE MILITARY. THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD MUST  
19 REQUIRE EACH CAMPUS OF THE INSTITUTION TO:

20 (a) USE THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION'S  
21 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT, AMONG OTHER  
22 FACTORS, TO EVALUATE COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING ACQUIRED BY A  
23 STUDENT WHILE IN THE MILITARY AND, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE  
24 CAMPUS, ASSIGN APPROPRIATE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT;

25 (b) PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO ACTIVE DUTY AND VETERAN  
26 MILITARY MEMBERS IN SELECTING A PROGRAM OF STUDY AND IN  
27 OPTIMIZING THE USE OF PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT TO  
28 ACCELERATE THE STUDENT'S PATH TO DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE  
29 COMPLETION IN THE CHOSEN PROGRAM OF STUDY; AND

30 (c) ACCEPT IN TRANSFER FROM WITHIN THE INSTITUTION AND  
31 FROM OTHER STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PRIOR LEARNING  
32 ASSESSMENT CREDIT AWARDED FOR COURSES WITH  
33 GUARANTEED-TRANSFER DESIGNATION. EACH CAMPUS MAY ALSO ACCEPT  
34 OTHER PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT TOWARD THE STUDENT'S  
35 PROGRAM OF STUDY IF THE CREDIT MEETS STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY  
36 THE CAMPUS.

37 (3) THE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL GRANT  
38 PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT CREDIT FREE OF TUITION BUT MAY CHARGE  
39 A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT.

40 (4) (a) DURING THE 2018 REGULAR SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
41 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION AND STATE,  
42 VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND

1 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
2 REGARDING THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS'  
3 POLICIES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

4 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019.

5 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety."

8 Page 1, line 101, strike "METRIC" and substitute "POLICY".

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